

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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CORRECTED COPY (PARA 2 LINE 12 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: TECH, UR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-U.S.S.R. HOUSING AGREEMENT: MEETING OF
WORKING GROUP 10.03 IN THE U.S.S.R.

REFS; (A) STATE 151090, (B) MOSCOW 14619

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PASS FOLLOWING LETTER OF JUNE 30 1978
TO TARENTIEV OF GOSSTROY:

"MR. IVAN IVANOVICH ISHCHENKO, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, U.S.S.R.
STATE COMMITTEE FOR CONSTRUCTION AFFAIRS, 12 MARX
AVENUE, MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. DEAR MR. ISHCHENKO:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 19, 1978, IN WHICH
YOU PROPOSED A DETAILED PROGRAM FOR THE MEETING OF
WORKING GROUP 10-03, BEGINNING JULY 31. THE PROPOSED
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PROGRAM IS ACCEPTABLE TO US. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL
MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHICH I IDENTIFIED IN MY
LETTER OF JUNE 12, OUR PARTY WILL INCLUDE MY WIFE,
MRS. ANNA LOU SIMONS; MR. WOHL'S WIFE, MRS. PHYLLIS
WOHL; AND MS. MELKONIAN'S FATHER, MR. WILLIAM C. MELKONIAN.
MR. TARENTIEV HAS INFORMED OUR EMBASSY THAT THE APPROPRIATE
HOTEL AND TRAVEL RESERVATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THESE

THREE ADDITIONAL TRAVELERS.

AS YOU KNOW, I RECENTLY HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING YOUR COLLEAGUE, DEPUTY MINISTER N.A. SEROV, AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE U.S.S.R. DELEGATION STUDYING THE FACTORY PRODUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-RISE RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES MADE OF WOOD. I MET YOUR DELEGATION AT THE END OF THEIR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THEY INFORMED ME THAT THEY BELIEVE THE VISIT TO HAVE BEEN A FRUITFUL ONE. MY STAFF AGREES WITH THIS EVALUATION, AND IT APPEARS THAT WE HAVE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR MORE DETAILED COOPERATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

MR. SEROV ALSO EXTENDED A VERY KIND INVITATION TO ME TO VISIT IRKUTSK AND THE AREAS THROUGH WHICH THE BAIKAL-AMUR RAILROAD IS BEING CONSTRUCTED. HE INDICATED THAT THIS AREA WOULD PRESENT EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE THE USE OF WOOD IN RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION, AND THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE USEFUL TO US THAN THE VISITS TO TBILISI AND YEREVAN WHICH ARE NOW PLANNED. IF YOU AGREE WITH MR. SEROV AND CAN MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE ITINERARY, I WOULD BE PLEASED TO ACCEPT MR. SEROV'S INVITATION, AT LEAST FOR MYSELF AND A PART OF MY DELEGATION AND THOSE ACCOMPANYING US. THE OTHER PART OF THE DELEGATION COULD PROCEED ON THE ITINERARY ALREADY ARRANGED. PLEASE ADVISE ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF YOUR THOUGHTS AND

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON THIS MATTER. SINCERELY, LAWRENCE B. SIMONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY,"

2. FOR EMBASSY INFORMATION, INVITATION REFERRED TO WAS EXTENDED IN THE CONTEXT OF A FRIENDLY COURTESY CALL AND WAS NOT AT FIRST TAKEN SERIOUSLY. LATER, HOWEVER, FOREST OF HUD QUESTIONED SEROV, WHO EMPHASIZED THAT HE KNEW THE AREAS IN QUESTION WERE RESTRICTED TO FOREIGNERS BUT THAT THE INVITATION WAS, INDEED, SERIOUS, AND THAT "WE WILL MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS IF YOU TELL US YOU WANT TO MAKE THE TRIP." IF TIME DOES NOT PERMIT REVISION OF THIS ITINERARY, WE INTEND TO REQUEST THE SAME VISIT TO THE BAIKAL AREA IN CONNECTION WITH A LATER PROJECT TRIP, PERHAPS CONNECTED WITH THE WOOD PRODUCTS DELEGATION WHICH PLANS TO VISIT THE USSR IN SEPT. HUD WOULD APPRECIATE EMB ASSISTANCE IN IDENTIFYING SPECIFIC PROJECTS, INSTITUTES, ENTERPRISES, ETC., WHICH MIGHT PROVE OF VALUE AS PLACES FOR THIS OR A LATER DELEGATION TO VISIT. VANCE

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